NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
Quarterly Report

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The Road Ahead

The National Council is still less than three years old. It has been in active operation, with a central office and a small paid staff, for less than a year and a half. It is, in a word, an infant.

Like most infants, it has had growing pains. But after looking back, the impression is left that the infant is basically healthy - even if it still has no silver spoon in its mouth. Slowly your organization has been growing; new members, organizations and individuals, have been added so that the National Council is now more truly a national organization. It has taken part, within its infant capabilities, in many of the major preservation questions of the day. It is working daily on an ever-increasing number of preservation problems, sent to it from all over the country. It is building up standards and procedures of administration. It has strengthened itself by obtaining in a single session of Congress a new National Trust, which is so linked to the National Council that the two organizations might well be considered as one.

Now the National Council and the National Trust are looking ahead. A positive program has been outlined. A statement of that program should inspirit all those who have nurtured the infant; it may enthuse those who are just learning that there is such an infant. Together the National Council and the National Trust plan the following program for 1950:

-To complete the organization of the National Trust by the selection of Trustees, who will determine the policies of that organization for the holding of historic sites, buildings and objects.

-To strengthen the financial structure of these organizations so that they may accomplish their work efficiently.

-To expand the membership of the National Council so that it will have a still broader popular base.

-To continue to give service to individuals and organizations dealing with preservation problems.

-To continue to correlate information dealing with all aspects of preservation so that it may fulfill its function as a national clearing house.

-To continue to fight the loss and destruction of important historic sites and buildings.

-To seek publicity media for the encouragement of public appreciation, use and interpretation of historic sites and buildings.

-To seek adequate financial support for a "Proposed Survey of the Status of Historic Preservation in the United States," the first of a series of special studies designed to coordinate the overall preservation program.

The accomplishment of this program with the help of the entire membership will give real meaning to the sincere greeting of the Executive Board and the staff, Happy New Year.

ARCHIVES
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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PERMANENT RECORD

National Trust. The Special Report to all members announced the signing of H.R. 5170 by President Truman on October 26th. Public Law 408, establishing a National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, has thus come into being. The principal job of the National Council at this time is the selection of "not less than six Trustees," which will serve with the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director of the National Gallery of Art on the Board.

The Executive Board of the National Council met on November 30th to consider the names of the nominees as Trustees, more than 40 persons from every section of the country. After minute and thorough discussion, this list was cut and there evolved a working list, men and women who would be approached in regard to their willingness to accept the responsibility. At the time of going to press, this is being done. Another Special Report will be issued when the full Board of Trustees, with representation from all major sections of the United States, is announced. In the meantime Frederick L. Rath, Jr., the Executive Secretary of the National Council, was appointed the Acting Executive Officer of the Trust.

There has been some confusion in the minds of everyone as to the exact nature of the new National Trust. It may be dangerous to oversimplify, but there is apparently some need for easy definition. Most simply, the National Council and the National Trust will be operated jointly in order to serve the cause of preservation of historic sites and buildings in the United States; but the National Council will have members and will have the responsbility for conducting the overall program, while the National Trust will have no members and will serve as a holding corporation for any sites, buildings, or objects significant in American history that are given to it. Details of the relationships and the mechanics under which the National Trust will operate wait upon the selection of the Board of Trustees. Inquiries from property-holders who are interested in the provisions of the National Trust have already begun to come into Headquarters and are being held for consideration of the Board. The Headquarters Office will do its best to answer any detailed questions about future operation.

Two of the three Cornelius Amory Pugsley medals awarded annually by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society for notable service in the cause of national or other parks, were awarded to Council members. To Dr. Waldo G. Leland went the gold medal; Dr. Leland, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the National Park Service, aided in the founding of the National Council and was Chairman of the Committee on Standards and Surveys. Recipient of the silver medal was Hillory Tolson, Assistant Director of the National Park Service.

Annual Meeting. The idea of members and delegates foregathering annually to discuss the affairs of a large organization is not peculiarly an American phenomenon, but it has been adopted wholeheartedly by the people of these United States. Sometimes there is a wailing and gnashing of teeth when programs are not scheduled to individual patterns; rarely is there unanimity regarding the outcome of any two- or three-day meeting. The Third Annual Meeting of the National Council, held in Williamsburg, Virginia, on October 12-14, has been deemed a success on a number of counts, however, as this brief informal report should show.

As a preliminary to the formal opening of the meeting, Kenneth Chorley, who was host, introduced three prominent members of the Colonial Williamsburg staff, Messrs. Kendrew, Geddy, and Alexander. With excellent talks and some illustrative material, they set the stage for the special guided tour that was given the following afternoon. The approach

assured all of those attending that they could get a thorough understanding of the scientific approach to restoration.

National Council President, General U. S. Grant, 3rd, opened the meeting on the morning of October 13th with a text, a quotation from the writings of Edward Everett: "How is the spirit of a free people to be formed and animated and cheered but out of the storehouse of its historical recollections?" The Honorable J. Hardin Peterson, Chairman of the House Public Lands Committee, who played so great a part in introducing and guiding the bill incorporating the National Trust, gave an informal account of the reasons why he supported this legislation. A business meeting followed, with reports on the National Trust and on Ways and Means and by the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary. Finally, the Nominating Committee reported its belief that the interests of the National Council would be best served if the incumbent officers and Executive Board were re-elected. It was pointed out that rotation in office should be the standard operating procedure but that the present officers and Board had experience which a relatively new organization could ill afford to lose. The report of the Nominating Committee was unanimously adopted.

The social event of the session was the Annual Dinner, when all members and delegates were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chorley. A superb dinner was followed by words of welcome from Mr. Chorley and three excellent, although dissimilar, talks by Miss Alice Winchester, editor of The Magazine Antiques, Mr. Albert Kornfeld, editor of House and Garden, and Judge Edwin O. Lewis, of Philadelphia. Council members all, they contributed illuminating points of view on preservation activities.

The final session, on the morning of October 14th, was a forum on preservation in the United States. No two-to-three hour session could do justice to so vast a topic, but the speakers did give some idea of the extent of operations today throughout the country. A mere listing of the speakers will give an idea of the coverage: Miss Ardelia Hall, State Department, who spoke about international preservation; Herbert E. Kahler, National Park Service activities; Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, restoration experience; Dr. Frank Roberts, river basin archeology; Dr. Jean Harrington, discoveries at Jamestown; Dr. Turpin Bannister, Middle West; Richard Koch, New Orleans; Col. Daniel M. Bates, New Castle, Delaware; Dr. Wyndham Blanton, Richmond; Mrs. George Morris, Woodlawn; Charles Strickland; Plimouth Plantation; Norman B. Smith, Rhode Island; Erwin Zepp, Ohio; John M. Scarff, Maryland.

Summing up, more than a hundred people were willing to come to Williamsburg for several days this fall to discuss preservation interests. They represented two-score societies with an active interest in this nation's heritage of historic sites and buildings. They studied, under expert guidance, one of the foremost preservation projects in the country. They met and discussed the business and plans of the National Council; they planned for its future. They told about their own interests in local projects and helped to spread the knowledge they are learning daily. There was only one regret - that all members could not have been present at the same time. For the feeling was strengthened that there is a place for an organization like the National Council and that with the support of all those who are working so hard in the regional, state, and local fields, it cannot fail to be of positive service in the future.

The preservation of Hadlyme Ferry, Connecticut, a fight in which the National Council took some part, seems to have ended in partial victory. It was reported earlier that there was a danger of an entirely new road, which would have destroyed the spirit of the tiny community. This was averted. New slips have been constructed for the new ferry and a real effort has been made to minimize the changes. A

small group of ardent workers, as always, formed the core of the resistance. Perhaps it should be noted and emphasized that the National Council is not against progress. It is thoughtlessness and carelessness and essentially bad planning that it is combating here and in many other places.

International Meeting of Experts. Mr. Ronald F. Lee, Chief Historian of the National Park Service and Secretary of the National Council, represented the United States at a meeting of a special committee of fourteen experts on preservation held in Paris on October 17-21. They came together at the invitation of UNESCO, to advise it on international measures that might be taken to further the preservation of artistic and historic monuments. Among those present were Dr. N. P. Chakravarti, Director-General of Archeology of India; Prof. Sigurd Erixon, Director of the Institutet för Folklivsforskning, Sweden; Pierre Lacau, former Director General of Antiquities of Egypt; Dr. Stanislaw Lorentz, Director-General of Museums and Protection of Monuments in Poland; Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neill, Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings, Ministry of Works, Great Britain; Dr. E. A. M. van Nispen tot Sevenaer, Director of the State Bureau for Monuments of Art and History in the Netherlands; Jean Verrier, Inspector General of Historic Monuments of France; and Dr. J. K. van der Haagen, Chief of Museums and Historic Monuments Division of UNESCO.

The committee recommended the establishment of a permanent international body to be called "UNESCO Permanent Committee for Historic and Artistic Monuments and Sites and Archeological Excavations." The proposed permanent committee would endeavor to further international collaboration in the field of historic and artistic monuments, the exchange of information and experts, international arrangements concerning the recovery of objects of cultural interest, and the protection of cultural property against the greatest risks, particularly in time of armed conflict.

There is every reason to believe that if this international committee is permanently established, much benefit to preservation in the United States will result, particularly through the exchange of technical information. An initial example of the kind of information that is already being collected by UNESCO is the paper by Mr. Lee which appears in the Supplement of this Quarterly Report.

As anyone who has travelled through Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, recently, knows the fight to divert the course of the Pennsylvania Turnpike was lost. Motorists will soon be able to go through a portion of the old campground at 75 miles an hour, a small consolation indeed for those who at the same time are trying to visualize the old scene.

Headquarters Activities. The Headquarters staff was doubled in November so that more attention could be given to matters with which it was trying to deal. Mr. Rath and Miss Walsh were finding it extremely difficult to keep pace with the flow of business and the decision was made that if the National Council were to continue to make progress, some added help would be needed. As a result, Mrs. Anne Patterson, who this year returned to her native Washington after many years on the West Coast, has been hired to deal primarily with membership, fund raising, and phases of the public relations program. Mrs. Patterson is just beginning to go into action after a study of the situation and you may expect to hear more from and about her. To help with the typing and filing, which has become more and more of a chore as the work of the Council expanded, Miss Cloris Jones now assists Miss Walsh.

Five societies have become Affiliates of the National Council, bringing the total of member organizations now to 43. We are happy and proud to welcome this time the American Jewish Historical Society, the Campo de Cahuenga Memorial Association (Los Angeles, California), the Hudson River Conservation Society, Inc., Kenmore Association, Inc. (Fredericksburg, Virginia), and the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (New York). It was pointed out at the Annual Meeting that many of our members belong to organizations that have not yet become Affiliates. If you believe that the National Council and the National Trust are capable of doing an effective job nationally, you should get your own societies to join. The work of preservation is going to be most effective when there is a network of societies and individuals covering the whole country, working together on all phases of the preservation program. The growth during the past year has been slow and the pace should be quickened before too many causes are lost.

Price, Waterhouse & Company audited the books of the National Council up to the end of the fiscal year, August 31, 1949. Their findings gave testimony to the excellent job that is being done by the Treasurer, Comm. Keith Merrill, and his assistant, Mrs. Ruth Dutcher. The National Council is indebted to them for their voluntary labors. A copy of this report may be seen at the Headquarters office by anyone who is interested.

The National Council has been represented at a number of important gatherings. General Grant gave a major talk on Armistice Day in Alexandria, Virginia, when the original doorway in that restored building was dedicated. Mr. Finley was the principal speaker before the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, Inc., of Connecticut, an Affiliate, at their meeting in October. Mr. Rath represented the Council at the September meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in Burlington, Vermont, and the November New England Conference of the American Association of Museums in Mystic, Connecticut.

Recent donors of books to the growing National Council library have been Council Members Elmer D. Keith, of Connecticut, Mrs. A. S. Forbes of California and author John Drury. Mr. Keith gave several valuable books on New England; Mr. Drury and Mrs. Forbes inscribed copies of their own books, Old Illinois Houses and California Missions and Landmarks. The offer to pay express charges on any surplus books in the field of preservation still remains open!

Proposed Preservations

Herkimer, New York. The Fairfield Alumni and Historical Society is conducting a campaign to restore the 147-year-old chapel of the former Fairfield Seminary. The Seminary was the first medical college in the State outside of New York City. An active drive for funds is now taking place in order to have the chapel ready in time for the annual reunion of the alumni in the summer of 1950.

Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. One of the oldest dwellings in this region, the 130-year-old stone house known as the Michael Brisbois Home, will be opened to the public in 1950 by the owner, Mr. John Cornelius. Significant architecturally, it also has important connections with the early fur trading industry in Wisconsin.

Trenton, New Jersey. A proposal has been made that the Douglas House, occupied by George Washington after the Battle of Trenton, be handed over to the State Historic Sites Commission for preservation.

LaGrange, Georgia. The LaGrange Woman's Club has announced a plan to restore as a State shrine Bellevue, the home of the late Benjamin H. Hill, Georgia's famed Senator during the Reconstruction.

Lompoc, California. An advisory committee of the State Park Commission has named a committee to push plans for the full restoration of La Purisima Mission. In addition to the restoration. the committee plans to have an authentic mission community living on the 500 acres surrounding the mission.

Alexandria, Virginia. The Alexandria Historical Society is still seeking further financial backing for the 200-year-old Ramsay House, which is owned by the city. Council Member Mrs. Robert M. Reese has offered many original furnishings when the restoration is complete.

San Gabriel, California. The City Council changed its mind a week after it offered to lease the historic Ramona Adobe, site of the famed Trinity Grapevine, as a restaurant and curio shop. After hearing a plea from various civic groups, it was decided that future use of the building, which is near San Gabriel Mission, would be determined after an architect had made a restoration study.

Lansing, Michigan. The Historical Society of Michigan, celebrating its diamond jubilee anniversary, passed a resolution urging the State to take necessary steps to restore the old trading post and home of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, whose explorations formed the basis of Longfellow's "Hiawatha."

The American University, Washington 6, D. C., has announced that this year's successful Institute in the Preservation and Interpretation of Historic Sites and Buildings will be repeated from June 12 through July 1, 1950. Under the direction of Professor Donald Derby, meetings will be held in Washington during the first two weeks of the course and in Williamsburg, Virginia, during the final week. Lectures and field investigations will be planned by Ronald F. Lee, Secretary of the National Council and Chief Historian of the National Park Service, and Edward P. Alexander, Educational Director of Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. This is the only special course now being offered in this country on preservation. Intense and practical, it was well received in 1949. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Director, School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs.

Preservations in Progress

The State of Washington. The new Advisory Board of the State Parks and Recreation Commission has made a number of recommendations as the initial step to preserve historic sites. As a result, action is being launched to acquire or improve Spokane House, Fort Columbia, Colville, Nespelem and Marcus Whitman Missions. Also under consideration are the English blockhouse on San Juan Island, the site near Suquamish when Chief Seattle's Old Man House stood, and Naches Pass where the Longmire Wagon train let its prairie schooners down over the cliff in 1853.

Fairfax County, Virginia. The recent death of octogenarian Louis Hertle brings into the hands of the State of Virginia for preservation as a memorial to George Mason, its original owner, famous Gunston Hall and its 555-acre estate. The deed, which was made in 1932, provides that it will be open to the public under the management of a Board of Regents, to be appointed by the Governor on nomination of the National Society of Colonial Dames.

Old Deerfield, Massachusetts. Council Member Henry N. Flynt has been the spearhead of a movement, still continuing, to preserve many of the homes of this small village. The most recent restoration was the home of the 18th-century village preacher, Jonathan Ashley. Mrs. Flynt has been responsible for the fabrics, wallpapers, and colors, while the structural work has been in the hands of Mr. William E. Gass.

Hannibal, Missouri. The "Pilaster" House, a prefabricated house dating from about 1844, of Greek Revival style and once the home of Mark Twain and his parents, has been bought by a resident of Hannibal, who plans to present it to the city.

Sandy Hook, New Jersey. The first life-saving station authorized by Act of Congress, back in 1848, has been moved from its original location at Spermaceti Cove to a new site adjacent to the new ultra-modern Sandy Hook Station. It will be opened next spring as a Coast Guard museum.

Columbia, South Carolina. The old Taylor Mansion will soon become the Columbia Art Center and Museum. More than $80,000 was raised to purchase the property.

Cornwall, Pennsylvania. The historic Buckingham Estate has been acquired for use as a Methodist Church Home.

Oakland, California. The Board of Port Commissioners has purchased the land on which Oakland's first city trustee meeting was held in 1852.

Savannah, Georgia. The old Trustees' Garden, which dates back to the beginning of this city in 1733, is the site of an interesting experiment. It has become a restoration housing project. Ten old houses have been remodeled and others are being worked on. The old Trustees' Gardens are being authentically restored and the developer, a businessman, plans to keep the Pirates' House, an old inn, and the Herb Garden House intact because of their historic interest.

Washington, D. C. Work has begun on the expensive restoration of the White House. Bids have been let, interior dismantling of furnishings that will be re-used has begun, and the underpinning of exterior walls is being undertaken. The job will be completed in about two years.

Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. The Louise Bolduc House, built before 1785, has been purchased by the St. Louis chapter of the Colonial Dames. This house is an important example of Creole architecture and has considerable historic interest.

Solvang, California. Restoration work at Santa Ines Mission, erected by Franciscan padres in 1804, is continuing. Last year the structure was strengthened and the second story rebuilt. Now funds have been provided for the replacement of an unorthodox restoration of the bell tower.

The Associated Press in October and November distributed an article on historic restoration in the country. Among the projects briefly noted were those at Williamsburg, Waterford, and Leesburg, Virginia; Plymouth, Massachusetts; Wethersfield, Connecticut; Natchez, Mississippi; Savannah, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; New Salem, Illinois; Virginia City, Montana; Columbia, California; Fort Harrod, Kentucky; the William Penn House, Pennsylvania; Mulford Farm, Easthampton, New York; and Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts. The final paragraph of the article was a strong statement, one in which the National Council heartily acquiesces: "Seeing the past with modern eyes is more instructive than history books."

Active Preservations

Fairfax County, Virginia. Council Member Charles C. Wall, Superintendent at Mount Vernon, has announced plans to restore the greenhouse and slave quarters on the estate. Recent research has given a clearer conception of the original state of these buildings. The supervising architect will be Walter M. Macomber.

Constableville, New York. Constable Hall, which was constructed during the second decade of the 19th century, has been restored by Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Lewis and Mrs. H. D. Cornwall. It has been opened to the public under the direction of the Constable Hall Association, Inc.

Williamsburg, Virginia. A colonial printing office, with complete 18th-century equipment, will be opened in the spring. Part of the visual education program, the shop will be operated by a costumed expert who will explain details to visitors.

Monterey, California. The Robert Louis Stevenson House, restored by the State, was dedicated on November 12th. The old adobe, where the author lived in 1879, will be open under the supervision of the California State Division of Beaches and Parks.

Rochester, New York. The George Eastman House was opened as a museum and institute of photography on November 9th. The 37-room house, built in 1905, was the gift of the University of Rochester, owner by bequest of Mr. Eastman.

Pico, California. The Pio Pico Mansion, restored by the State in 1946-7 and operated as a State Monument, will hold a month-long centennial celebration in January.

The English architect and author, Howard Robertson, commenting on the fight to preserve Washington Square in New York City, had this to say: "It is a curious thing that American citizens, and New Yorkers in particular, will travel thousands of miles to visit the fine places of tradition in countries like England, and yet might be unmoved by the threat to Washington Square."

The Passing Parade. Again the sad story of the ever-increasing destruction of our country's historic heritage may best be told in a few brief headlines.

Baltimore, Md.: VICTORIAN HOUSE TORN DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR PARKING LOT

Saginaw, Michigan: HISTORIC INDIAN MISSION AND BURYING GROUND VICTIMS OF NEGLECT AND VANDALS

Yellow Springs, Ohio: LACK OF REPAIR FUNDS HALTS THEATRE PRODUCTION IN OLD OPERA HOUSE

New Rochelle, New York: HISTORIC FORT SLOCUM SOON TO BE ONLY GHOST

Sunland, California: 19th CENTURY INN TO BE ABANDONED

Erie, Pennsylvania: OLD ERIE LANDMARK TORN DOWN FOR DIME STORE

Staten Island, New York: CENTURY OLD POLITICAL HEADQUARTERS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Queenstown, Maryland: EASTERN SHORE FIRE RAZES HISTORIC COLONIAL HOME

Battle Creek, Michigan: LANDMARKS OF OLD BATTLE CREEK COLLEGE SOON WILL VANISH UNDER ARMY PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.: END OF CENTURY TOWN HOUSE WRECKED FOR NEW APARTMENT BUILDING

Los Angeles, California: FIGHT TO SAVE OLD HIGH SCHOOL IN PATH OF PARKWAY LOST

> The British Ministry of Works, custodian of 470 Crown and historic properties in England, Scotland, and Wales, has a force of 400 skilled laborers which it is training in the technique of treating ancient masonry. Guardianship, under terms of the Ancient Monuments Act, may be assumed without affecting private ownership, but the monument must be open to the public. More than a million dollars will be spent this year on urgent repairs and maintenance of ancient monuments.

Foreign Preservation

Hampshire, England. Jane Austen's home has been presented to the nation and is now open to the public. Thomas E. Carpenter purchased it as a memorial to his son, who was killed in World War II.

Kendal, Westmoreland, England. The historic castle of Sizergh, dating back to Henry II, was given to the National Trust in October.

Galashiels, Scotland. The Old Gala House, home of the Lairds o' Gala, has been acquired by the Galashiels Art Club and is to be opened as a local museum.

High Wycombe, Bucks, England. Hughenden Manor, home of Lord Beaconsfield in the 19th century, was re-opened as a museum after Lord Esher accepted the deeds on behalf of the National Trust.

Denbighshire, England. In November, Lord Aberconway gave to the National Trust a part of his estate, Bodnant, including the famous gardens overlooking the River Conway.

The popular antiques and gardens forums are to be held again in Williamsburg early this year. The second annual Antiques and Decorative Forum will be held in three five-day sessions, beginning on January 23, January 30, and February 6. A Colonial House and Garden Symposium will have two five-day identical sessions, the first beginning February 27, and the second on March 6. Excellent staffs have been gathered for both of these forums, which will differ only in emphases. Further information may be obtained from the Registrar, Goodwin Building, Williamsburg, Virginia.

City Planning. Two more Southern cities are doing something about the problems of preservation of historic sites and buildings. In Richmond, Virginia the William Byrd Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, a member organization of the National Council, has been fighting on several fronts. At the request of the Zoning Board it has conducted a survey of the city's buildings and there are now on record some 1200 houses, divided into five graded categories. A ruling has also been secured from the City Attorney of Richmond that historic zoning may be supported as a reasonable exercise of the police power. These are, of course, major primary steps in the battle for municipal recognition of the preservation problem. They also point the way for other municipalities.

In Savannah, Georgia, the new Savannah-Chatham County Historical Site and Monument Commission, authorized by the Georgia Legislature and composed of members of the City Government, has been empowered "to purchase, acquire by gift, construct, lease and to manage and/or operate property of historic interest to the city, to erect markers for such sites, or for other appropriate sites." In November the Chairman of the Committee made a plea to the Mayor and the Aldermen for a moderate amount of money to carry on the work of the Commission and specifically to save the historic Wetter Home, which was in danger of destruction. At the time of writing, no word as to its success has been received.

Through the efforts of Council Member Eric Gugler, Mr. Charles M. Stotz, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has supplied the National Council with some valuable material on preservation in Western Pennsylvania. At our request Mr. Stotz is collecting some graphic material as well as detailed information on the destruction of historic buildings in his section. Council members might bear in mind that there is an increasing demand from publications for photographs and for concrete illustrations of recent destructions. Any help that can be given in supplying such material will be sincerely appreciated.

In Print. Three new books are of particular interest to Council members. Richard Pratt, architectural editor of the Ladies Home Journal, has reprinted in colorful form the series of articles on historic sites that has appeared in the magazine. A Treasury of American Homes is not comprehensive, but it is noteworthy for its color plates and its sympathy for preservation. McGraw-Hill Book Company is selling it for $12.50.

Professor Oliver W. Larkin has written Art and Life in America (Rinehart & Co., $7.95), which contains material of value to the preservationist. Although concerned in large part with the formal graphic arts, there are sections on architecture and allied fields. Expecially valuable is the 32-page bibliography.

Just off the press is a new book, The White House: Home of the Presidents, by Council Member Randle Bond Truett, Chief of the National Memorials Division of National Capital Parks. The chief feature is a 60-page gravure section, which offers a timely pictorial review of the building's history. Hastings House is offering it for $2.75.

Council Member Charles E. Peterson is the author of a new pamphlet issued by the Missouri Historical Society, "Colonial St. Louis: Building a Creole Capital." Architect and historian, Mr. Peterson offers here a splendid example of the scientific study that precedes modern preservation. This monograph points up the fact that preservation itself has become a full-fledged science. The research method is again brilliantly exposed in Mr. Peterson's three-part articles in recent issues of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society entitled "Notes on Old Cahokia."

> Dr. Frank Roberts of the Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution gave a brilliant summary of the status of the salvage archeology program in the United States at the Annual Meeting. He pointed out that it is only a rearguard operation that is being fought in the race with the reservoir builders. He outlined the surveys that have been made and noted how much ground was being lost. It may come as a surprise to some to learn that there are some 560 reservoir projects all over the country in various stages of development. By cooperation with local groups and State societies, limited progress is being made. But the fact remains that the flooding of the river valleys, where our early civilizations centered, is daily wiping out invaluable records.

The British National Trust. There has come to hand a copy of The Times, of London, for November 12th, the day following the annual meeting of the National Trust. Excerpts from an editorial not only tell the story but also point out some interesting analogies: "Reviewing the progress of the Trust, at its annual general meeting yesterday, Lord Crawford, chairman of the executive committee, described last year as one of consolidation rather than gain. The future depends on public support.... Membership of the Trust has risen with the size of the acreage under its control, but it remains lamentably small when account is taken of how much the public is indebted to it.... Generosity on a large scale by a few individuals has built up the National Trust, but the future must lie, more and more, with smaller subscribers. The advantages of an organization that preserves land and architecture for the common good without the setting up of yet another branch of government are weighty and obvious. Apart from the need for support from the general public

for financial reasons, the Trust deserves to be encouraged for the awakened interest it arouses in its members in watching over national amenities.... The National Trust has travelled far from its modest origin with a handful of members and under fifty acres, but it may be hoped that the journey is only beginning." With a hand stretched across the sea, we join in that wish.

> The State of Vermont has posted the last of 65 new historical markers along its highways. The markers are designed and sponsored by the Vermont Historic Sites Commission, of which State Historian Earle W. Newton is Chairman. Mr. Newton has just been named President of Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, one of the larger restoration projects in this country.

National Park Service Activities. Of primary importance in recent months was the final passage of an appropriation for the Independence Hall National Historical Park project. The Interior Department Appropriation Bill provided $500,000 for the acquisition of land and $3,935,000 for contract authorizations. The Secretary of the Interior has appointed an Advisory Committee of 11 members, who met on November 29th for their first meeting. Two Council members were elected to office by this Committee, Judge Edwin O. Lewis, Chairman, and Mr. Michael Francis Doyle, Secretary. The plans of the National Park Service were discussed and approved at this meeting. An operational staff has been appointed and Council Member Charles E. Peterson is now the Resident Architect.

Joan C. Harrington, the Park Service archeologist who reported briefly at the Annual Meeting on the recent findings at Jamestown, Virginia, has been given a grant by the Glass Crafts of America, which is composed of manufacturers of handblown glass. He will leave for England in February in order to study early glassmaking efforts, to see whether they throw light on his findings at Jamestown.

An appropriation of $150,000 has been authorized to make a study of the feasibility of a parkway along the Mississippi River. The National Park Service will cooperate with the Bureau of Public Roads in an investigation of the social, economic, and cultural factors. It was on the basis of such a study that the Natchez Trace Parkway, which is now being constructed, was authorized. A similar study for a Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Parkway has been made and is pending before Congress. Of interest is the recognition of the need for an understanding and appreciation of historical, architectural, and archeological background in the planning of these major roads.

Another area was formally added to the National Park Service chain when President Truman on October 25th signed a proclamation establishing the Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa. The 1,000-acre tract conveyed to the Federal Government by the State illustrates a significant phase of the mound-building culture of pre-historic American Indians.

More than $165,000 has been provided for the improvement and rehabilitation of Castle Clinton, and the National Park Service has already begun preliminary planning on the project. The establishment of this new national monument at the Battery in New York City is a notable victory for a relatively small group of preservationists, energetically and ably led by Executive Board Member George A. McAneny.